

Taughner et al.

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In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for organizing images, comprising the steps of:
receiving images a first image from a user;
analyzing content contained within the images-first image;
detecting features a feature contained within the images-first image;
~~comparing-identifying a match between the detected features-feature and a features that~~
~~were previously-detected feature identified in one or more previously-stored images in an attempt~~
~~to match the detected features with features of the previously-stored images;~~
querying the user to ~~identify one or more of the~~ provide information that describes the
~~detected features-feature in response to the match;~~
~~receiving identification information provided by the user in association with one or more~~
~~of the received images;~~
storing the received images and any user provided identification ~~associating the~~
information such that the identification information is associated with the first image and the one
~~or more of the received previously-stored images;~~
identifying a group grouping of images that comprises the first image and the one or
more previously-stored images containing like features together;
presenting ~~the groups group~~ of images to the user as a separate photo album albums each
~~comprising that comprises separate but related images that can be viewed individually in~~
~~sequence; and~~
storing at least one of the photo albums.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a feature
~~features comprises the step of detecting one or more faces contained in the images first image.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting a feature
~~features comprises the step of detecting a scene scenes contained in the first imageimages.~~
5. (Canceled)

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
detecting ~~dates and times of day on which the first image and the one or more previously-~~
stored images were captured; and
| using ~~that information in~~ grouping the images through employment of the dates.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the step of:
storing the ~~received images comprises storing the images~~ first image within a protected
| originals folder ~~separate from the at least one stored photo album.~~
- 9-19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for organizing images~~, comprising:
means for analyzing content ~~contained within a plurality of~~ received images;
means for detecting a feature ~~features contained within the plurality of received images;~~
means for ~~comparing detected features to features that were previously identified in~~
previously stored images in an attempt to match the detected features with features of the
previously stored images;
means for querying the user to ~~identify one or more of~~ provide identification information
| that describes the detected feature ~~features;~~
means for ~~receiving identification information provided by the user in association with~~
one or more of the received images;
means for storing the received images and ~~any user provided~~ the identification
information such that the identification information is associated with ~~one or more of the plurality~~
| of received images;
means for grouping stored images ~~containing like that comprise the detected~~
feature ~~features together in a group;~~
means for presenting the group ~~groups of~~ images to the user as a separate photo album
| ~~albums each comprising that comprises~~ separate but related images that can be viewed
individually in sequence; and
means for storing ~~at least one of the photo albums~~ album.

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21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the means for detecting a feature comprise means for detecting faces and scenes ~~contained within~~ the received images.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An image management system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system comprising:
an image analysis module that ~~includes-comprises~~ logic that is configured to detect features ~~contained in~~ images received from a user and time attributes that indicate when the images were captured, to compare detected features to features that were previously identified in previously stored images in an attempt to match the detected features with features of the previously stored images, ~~and to query the user to identify one or more of~~ provide identification information that describes the detected features, ~~and to receive the~~ identification information provided by the user ~~in association with one or more of the received images;~~
an image storage module that includes logic that is configured to store the received images ~~and any~~ the user-provided identification information such that the identification information is associated with one or more of the received images; and
an album generation module that ~~includes-comprises~~ logic that is configured to group stored images ~~containing that comprise like~~ detected features together, to present groups of images to the user as separate photo albums each comprising separate but related images that can be viewed individually in sequence, and to store at least one of the photo albums.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the logic of the image analysis module is configured to detect faces and scenes ~~contained in~~ the images and to determine dates and times of day when the images were captured.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, further comprising an image search module that ~~includes-comprises~~ logic configured to search databases of image attributes to locate particular images desired by a user.

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28. (New) A method, comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of images from a user;
detecting a date on which each of the plurality of images was captured;
evaluating a frequency of image capture over a period of time;
identifying, from the plurality of images, a group of images that comprises images recorded during the period of time; and
presenting the group of images to the user as a photo album.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of evaluating the frequency of image capture over the period of time comprises the step of:
determining a period of time in which the frequency of image capture is increased relative to adjacent periods of time.
30. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:
querying the user for information that describes a relation among the group of images.